Achievments of Ambedkar and Rajiv Gandhi Foundations

101. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective and field of welfare activities of Ambedkar Foundation and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and contribution of the Central Government ot their corpus fund;

(b) the major achievements of the Foundations since their inception and State-wise list of various schemes sponsored by them including financial allocations made during the period; and

(c) the new areas and the targets proposed to be implemented in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Information regarding the objectives, major achievements since inception and the proposed new areas and targets in respect of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation is attached in the Statement. *(See* below). As regards Rajiv Gandhi Foudation, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) *Objectives:*

Broad Objectives of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation as enshrined under its Memorandum of Association are as follows:

(i) Establishment of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library at New Delhi;

(ii) Establishment and administration of Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in various Indian Universities to facilitate research concerning the life and mission of Dr. Ambedkar.

(iii) Administration of Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social change, and Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Understanding.

(iv) Award of Dr. Ambedkar Fellowships;

(v) Publication of literature concerning the life and contribution of Dr. Ambedkar.

In addition to the above, the Foundation has been entrusted with the responsibilities of organisation of two functions in Birth Anniversary and Death Anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar every year on 14th April and 6th Dec. respectively, establishment of Memorials at historical places connected with the life and mission, organisation of Seminars, Symposia concerning the relevant national and international issues.

(b) Since the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in the year 1993, the following major Schemes and Projects have been undertaken:

(i) The Project of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library

For this Project about 4 acres of land situated at Janpath New Delhi has been allotted by the Ministry of Urban Affairs during April 1994. However, five Bungalows which stand on the allotted land are occupied by the Members of Parliament, hence physical possession of these Bungalows could not be taken over so far. One Bungalow (21, Janpath) out of five Bungalows allotted, has handed over to the Foundation recenily. An initial grant of Rs. 5.5 crores has also been released for this project. Action has been initiated for conceptualisation of the proposed Library. Further action will be initiated for implementation of this Project after taking over physical possession of the allotted land.

(ii) Dr. Ambedkar Memorial at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi

Action has been initiated for acquisition of land and property situated at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi which happens to be the last home of Baba Saheb Ambedkar for conversation of the same as a Memorial in the honour of Dr. Ambedkar. An amount of Rs. 10 crores has been released for this Project on 26.3.1997. Action has also been initiated for conceptualisation and preparation of the blue-print of the proposed Memorial. Further action will be taken after taking over physical possession of the land.

(iii) Scheme of Dr. Ambedkar Chairs

So far, Dr. Ambedkar Chairs have been set up in 9 different Universities to facilitate students and academicians for undertaking higher studies on the subject concerning the life and mission of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Annual grant of Rs. 10 lakhs are being released to these Chairs.

(iv) Scheme of Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships

A Scheme of Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships was introduced in the year 1993 under which 4 students are being sent abroad for undertaking higher studies in different disciplines under this Scheme. So far, 12 students have been selected under this Scheme. The Governing Body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation has recently decided to discontinue this Scheme and replace a new Scheme called "Dr. Ambedkar National Fellowship and Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship" which will facilitate the students and scholars to undertake higher studies not only in Indian but also in foreign Universities.

(v) Dr. Ambedkar National Award

The Foundation has been awarding Dr. Ambedkar Awards to both individuals as well as Associations/Institutions who have made outstanding contributions for promotion of Social Change for upliftment of Weaker Sectons of society in India. This annually Award carries cash amount of Rs. 10 lakhs, a citation and a plaque. So far two Awards have been presented in the past.

(vi) Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change

Recently Dr. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change has been established. The purpose of this Award is to commemorate the signal services rendered by Dr. Ambedkar to India and the human family at large. This annual Award carries cash amount of Rs. 15 lakhs in foreign exchange a citation and a plaque. After constitution of the Jury, action is being taken to invite nominations for the first Award.

(vii)The Project of Translation and Publication of literature concerning the life and mission of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

The Foundation has initiated a Project of Translation and Publication of the Collected Works of Baba Saheb Ambedkar with includes his writings and speeches in 12 different regional languages. The original literature published by Govt. of Maharashtra is being translated and distributed at subsidised rates with an intention to popularise the ideology and philosophy of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

In addition to the above, the Foundation has been organising National Functions both on 14th April and 6th December on the occasion of Birth and Death Anniversaries of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister and other national leaders pay homage and floral tributes to Baba Saheb Ambedkar on both these occasions.

So far to facilitate the Foundation to implement the above referred Schemes and Project, the Government of India has provided Corpus Fund of Rs. 67.5 crores during the last 7 years.

(c) Now the Foundation is planning to introduce Schemes and Projects for providing assistance to NGOs for prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as well as for promotion of the education among the members of under privileged sections of the society.

Gold Deposits in Singhbhum Region

102.SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether significant gold deposits have been discovered in the Singhbhum region of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) No significant gold deposits have been discovered in the Singhbhum region of Bihar so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

Restructuring Plan for Sail

103. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the restructuring plant for Steel Authority of India Ltd. for smooth sailing; and

(b) the measures envisaged to push exports?